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Athletic shrine taps four standouts

Furman University

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Athletic shrine taps four standouts

TWO ALL-AMERICANS, a three-sport star, and a longtime administrator comprise Furman's 2012 Athletic Hall of Fame class. Quarterback Ingle Martin '06, golfer Brandi Jackson '03, Ted Yakin '54, and honorary selection John Block '63 will be inducted October 13.

Martin passed for 5,751 yards and 42 touchdowns in 2004–05 after transferring from the University of Florida. Furman posted a 21-6 record under his leadership and made the NCAA I-AA playoffs both years. He was All-Southern Conference as a quarterback and All-America as a punter in 2005, when he averaged 43.2 yards per punt. He holds or shares 16 school records.

Jackson was a three-time all-conference performer and the league's player of the year in 2003. She was the runner-up in the 2002 United States Women's Amateur, was a National Golf Coaches Association All-America in 2003, and twice won the South Carolina Women's Match Play title. She played for several years on the Futures and LPGA tours.

Yakin lettered in football, baseball and track and field. He rushed for 924 yards and five touchdowns in helping football post an 18-10-1 record from 1952–54. A first baseman in baseball, he set a school record with three triples in a 13-9 win over Clemson in 1954, and in track and field he excelled in sprints and the long jump.

Block played basketball as an undergraduate and joined the history faculty in 1968. He was NCAA faculty athletics representative from 1990–96. He became vice president for intercollegiate athletics in 1996, and during his five years in that position Furman teams won 33 league titles (regular season and tournament).



New coaches take the helm(s) of Paladin programs

IN RECENT MONTHS the athletics department welcomed five new head coaches to the Furman fold. They are:

LACROSSE: Richie Meade, coach of the U.S. men's national senior team, and Rachel Shuck Whitten have been hired to lead Furman's new men's and women's lacrosse programs, which will begin varsity play in the spring of 2014.

Meade was coach of the U.S. Naval Academy men's team from 1994–2011, leading the Midshipmen to a 142-97 record and seven NCAA tournament appearances. In his 21 years as a college head coach, including four years at the University of Baltimore, Meade has a 162-120 mark. He was also a tenured professor of physical education and is a Senior Fellow at the Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership at the Naval Academy. He will lead the U.S. senior team at the Federation of International Lacrosse World Championships in Denver, Colo., in 2014.

Whitten was most recently associate women's coach at the University of Denver, where she spent the last six years. During her time there the teams compiled a 71-36 record, won three Mountain Pacific Sports Federation regular-season championships, and ranked among the nation's top 20 three times.

SOFTBALL: Kyle Jamieson was most recently an assistant coach at Fordham

University in New York. He has also been on the staffs at Toledo, Bowling Green, Syracuse and Arkansas, and served as an assistant for the Danish men's national team.

TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY: Robert Gary was head men's track and field and cross country coach at Ohio State before coming to Furman this spring. His wife, Rita Arndt Gary, will serve as an assistant coach.

Gary, an Ohio State graduate and two-time U.S. Olympian in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, coached the Buckeyes' men's cross country team for 16 years, taking eight teams to the NCAA championships. He coached the track and field squad for the last six years. Rita Gary was head women's track and field/cross country coach at Miami (Ohio) University from 2008-09, where she led the cross country team to its first Mid-American Conference title.

WOMEN'S GOLF: Kelley Hester comes to Furman after spending the last five seasons as coach at the University of Georgia, where her teams qualified for the NCAA Regionals each year and finished 10th and 15th, respectively, at the 2008 and 2009 NCAA Championships. In 2009 Hester was named LPGA National Coach of the Year.

Visit www.furmanpaladins.com for more about the new coaches.